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ABSTRACT

This interdisciplinary unit is intended for use in grades K-1 and can be modified for use through grade 3. The unit encourages students to express themselves through art, using materials found at the beach and brought into the classroom. The activities can be used separately whenever art is called for in the curriculum or can be integrated into other classroom topics. Suggested tie-ins are given with each activity. (RE)

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ED164351

Northern New England Marine Education Project

College of Education
University of Maine at Orono
Orono, Maine

A Maine - New Hampshire Sea Grant Project

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MARINE ART: A RESOURCE UNIT

A Marine Education Infusion Unit

SE 026 340

Northern New England Marine Education Project

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Acknowledgements

This unit was prepared and trial tested in schools in Maine and New Hampshire during spring 1978. Each of the units in this Marine Education Program were trial tested in a minimum of five classrooms and were revised as a result of suggestions by the cooperating teachers. Parts of these units and much of our working philosophy was derived from project C.O.A.S.T. developed at the University of Delaware and we gratefully acknowledge the leadership of Dr. Robert Stegner, director of project C.O.A.S.T. These materials were trial tested under the supervision of former assistant director Dr. Les Picker and were written by graduate students in education at the University of Maine (Orono) and cooperating teachers in the schools of Union, Maine; Freeport, Maine; and Hampton, New Hampshire. We call these units - trial units - because we hope you will try them in your classroom and modify them to suit your situation.

John W. Butzow
Project Director
January 1979

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NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND MARINE EDUCATION PROJECT

ANNOTATED LIST OF INFUSION UNITS: K-8

Trial Edition A

- K Clams and Other Critters: a unit on shells (living and non-living), includes crafts, science, language arts, home economics, math and other areas. (Butzow and Jones)
- K + 1 Marine Art: art and craft activities to be used in many subject areas (Picker)
- 2 The Aquarium: revolves around a freshwater aquarium setup. Language arts, math, science, art and others. (Kilfoyle)
- 3 The Beaver: study of the history, economics and natural history of the beaver. Social studies, language arts, music, arts, crafts, science, math. (DiSilvestro)
- 4 The Lobster: explores the economics, history, biology, literature of the lobster. Home economics, art, crafts, science, social studies, literature. (Kilfoyle)
- 5 Whales and Whaling: a complete study of the history, biology and economics of whales and whaling. Language arts, music, math, science, social studies, arts, crafts, industrial arts. (Picker, Carlin)
- 6 Our Heritage of Ships: surveys the development of ships, with emphasis on New England. Science, art, music, crafts, literature, language arts, social studies. (Glueck, Butzow)
- 7 Ships, Shipping and Waterways: explores ships and seaways today, with emphasis on New England. Social studies with excursions into science, arts. (Glueck, Butzow)
- 8 Coastal Indians of Northern New England: three part approach to Indian studies, culminating in an "Indian Day or livening." Independent study suggested for Part II. Language arts, library science, music, art, crafts, social studies, marine science, industrial arts. (Picker, DiSilvestro)

Units are available from Northern New England Marine Education Project
 Northern New England Marine Education Project
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TITLE: ART AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

GRADE LEVEL: K-1 (K-3 with modifications)

SUBJECT: Art

PERIODS: Various

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Some Teacher Comments On:

Art and the Marine Environment

"This project was a very exciting thing for me to work on. I was eager and happy to do it, and I gained much from it. I learned a great deal in areas that I enjoy, but had had limited knowledge. It sparked up my teaching in a very difficult year, and gave me great pleasure in watching the children's enthusiasm and participation."

"I found it all very worthwhile and plan to add it to my curriculum next year."

INTRODUCTION

This unit has been developed to allow the students to express themselves creatively through the use of basic materials found at the beach or brought to the classroom. It is also intended to be used IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER MARINE LEARNING EXPERIENCES. This unit contains only art activities. These activities may be used separately whenever art is called for in your curriculum. However, it is recommended that the activities be incorporated into a total unit, such as "The Rocky Shore", or coordinated with the reading of a book. For instance, after reading "One Morning in Maine" by R. McClosky (Viking Press, 1952) students could perform a number of activities, such as making shadowboxes, shell mobiles, finger and sand paintings, etc., depicting the marine life in the book or at the beach. Suggested tie-ins appear with each activity. We welcome additional suggestions.

In collecting materials to be used in these arts and crafts activities, emphasize that students should collect no more material than they will need to complete the activities. The only material the students should be encouraged to collect an excess of is beach trash.

BASIC MATERIALS

Below are some of the materials you will need. Except for the materials collected at the beach, most of them are available in hobby and art supply stores. Think ahead; collect in the summer and fall!

Shells--a wide variety of shapes and colors

Driftwood--a variety of shapes and sizes

Beach vegetation

Beach Glass--fragments of glass that have been made smooth by wave and sand action

Pebbles, Stones, and Rocks--a variety of colors, sizes, and shapes

Adhesives--white glue (such as Elmer's Glue-All), rubber cement, school paste, household cement (such as Duco), epoxy, etc.

Paintbrushes--several sizes

Paper--construction paper, newsprint, aluminum foil, tissue, oaktag, finger paint, paper, cardboard, poster board

Drawing and Painting Supplies--crayons, chalk, charcoal, pastels, pencils, tempera paints

Cutting tools--scissors, paper cutter, utility knife, wire cutters

Spray Shellac and varnish

Plaster of Paris

String, heavy thread, wire, yarn, fishing line, dental floss

Fabric scraps, felt, pipe cleaners, etc.

UNDERWATER LIFEFINGER PAINTING*Materials

finger paint paper
blue and yellow finger paints
can of water
sponges
smocks

Directions (Demonstrate for students first!)

1. Sponge the shiny side of the finger paint paper with water, or dip the paper in water. Wet the back of the paper, too, to hold it in place on the desk or floor.
2. Place about one teaspoon of blue and yellow finger paint on the wet paper.
3. Spread and blend the colors with large movements. The colors will get muddy with too much rubbing.
4. With fingertips, design an underwater scene, including fish, plant life, etc. Palms, knuckles, sides of the hand, and back of the hand.

Variations

1. Blend finger paints on wet paper for a water effect. Let the paint dry and glue the painting to a piece of cardboard. Cut out small fish from aluminum foil and glue them to the painting. Glue dried grasses, shells, pebbles, and sand to the picture and cover it with plastic wrap. (Have students observe an aquarium setup before doing this activity.)
2. To make a simple print, fingerpaint a design on a desktop and print it on a sheet of newsprint. Simply place the newsprint on the paint and press carefully, but firmly the entire back of the newsprint. Lift carefully.

*This activity may be used to depict seashore or beach scenes, following a field trip or the reading of a seashore type book such as Arty the Smarty (Grossett & Dunlap, N.Y.)

SAND PAINTING*

Materials

fine sand
white glue
oaktag or heavy cardboard
water
paintbrush
pencil
trays for sand
brush and dustpan

Directions

1. With a pencil, lightly draw a simple design on the oaktag or cardboard.
Alternatively, you can trace the enclosed designs on the oaktag or cardboard.
2. Mix equal amounts of glue and water.
3. Paint a small portion of the design with the glue and water mixture and sprinkle sand on it. Shake off the extra sand. Continue until the design is covered with sand.

Variations

1. Use colored sand. You may either purchase colored sand from a hobby or art supply store or make your own. To color sand, mix sand with acrylic paint and water and leave it to dry for several hours. Stir the drying sand occasionally to prevent lumps from forming. Food colors are good for coloring white Southern sand, which are often available from regular science supplies.
2. Make a sand-painted jewelry box. Paint an egg carton or cigar box with tempera paint. Sand paint on the lid. Shells could be added as an extra touch. After the paint is dry, shellac the carton or box.
3. Make a sand painted mural. Everyone in the class could contribute one scene to a large picture.

4. Make a wall hanging. Sand paint on stretched canvas. Fill in the background with acrylic paint. Dried beach plants and shells could be added.
5. Lightly outline a desired shape with crayon in a styrofoam meat tray. Sand paint that design, or sand paint "free-hand" using the sand discussed above, or using colored aquarium gravel. Q-tips can be used to apply undiluted elmer's glue to the meat tray. Masking tape can be used to mount half a paper clip to the back of the meat tray for use in hanging.

*Read a book on a variety of seashore creatures. Hand out an outline of various creatures and use for sand painting. The very use of beach sand for paintings will generate marine-related questions and awareness. Therefore, apply the sand-painting activity to any curriculum area which is in need of an art activity. For example, utilize for large block letter and/or number cards.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING ON DAMP PAPER*

Materials

transparent watercolors
paintbrush
drawing paper
sponge
water container

Directions

1. Thoroughly soak paper in water.
2. Lay wet paper on desk top. Smooth out all wrinkles.
3. Paint an underwater scene directly on the wet paper. Use more paint than water. The colors will blend together, making the underwater scene more realistic. The painting must be done quickly before the paper dries.

Variation--Water color wax resist

Draw an underwater scene very lightly with pencil on the drawing paper. Pressing down firmly, go over the pencil drawing with a crayon. Paint over the drawing with blue or green water color.

*Use in conjunction with books which show underwater scenes.

SHELLSCHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS*Materials

large clam shells
white glue
old Christmas cards
scissors
ribbon
string
clear varnish
hand or electric drill with small bit

Directions

1. The teacher should drill a hole near the hinge of the shell. A hole can also be made by carefully hammering a small nail through the shell. Wear eye goggles. (Alternative: Use clear, or white cement to attach a half paper clip to the back of the shell. Yarn or string can be threaded through this for hanging.)
2. Cut a picture from a Christmas card and glue it inside the shell. Let the glue dry.
3. Insert some string through the hole and dip the shell into the varnish. Let the varnished shell dry.
4. Replace the string with ribbon and hang the ornament on the Christmas tree.

Variations--see attached sheet.

*Modify for use on other holidays, e.g. Valentine's Day necklaces. Use in conjunction with a unit on upcoming holidays. Coordinate with a book reading.

Variations

1. Glue small shells on colored paper or oaktag in the shapes of hearts, Christmas trees, etc. to make cards for the various holidays.
2. Small shells can be painted different colors for use as game markers.

SHELL PRINTING*

Materials

a variety of shells (works best with sand dollars and other flat shells)
newsprint
paintbrushes, wide, stiff
non-toxic paints, water soluble only
newspaper

Directions

1. Cover the work area with newspaper.
2. Choose several interesting shells you wish to print with.
Plan a design.
3. Using a paintbrush, cover the shell evenly with paint.
4. Place the shell on the newspaper and gently press the newsprint down on the shell. Rub back and forth gently until the impression of the shell is on the paper. Repeat this step with the other shells.
5. Let the finished print dry.

Variations

1. Cut out the prints and mount them on a contrasting piece of paper.
2. Combine shell printing with painting, or include shell prints as part of a collage.

*Use in conjunction with Clams and Other Critters (Northern New England Marine Education Project, 1978).

SHELL CONTAINERS*

Materials

box or containers (matchbox, egg carton, shoe box, cigar box, butter container, etc.)

paint

paintbrushes

shells

pebbles

white glue

fabric (optional)

spray shellac

Directions

1. Choose a container. Paint it or cover it with fabric. (Plastic containers are better if they are covered with fabric.) Let it dry.
2. Arrange shells and pebbles creatively on the container. Glue the shells and pebbles down securely.
3. When the glue has dried, spray the container with shellac.
4. The inside of the container can be lined with cotton or some other material.

*Makes an excellent gift for Mothers' or Fathers' Day, or any other occasion.

SEASIDE MIRROR*Materials

sandpaper		
small, flat paintbrush		
paint		
mirror, 10" x 12"		
variety of shells & beach pebbles		
household cement	)	2-10" and 2-12" stretcher strips
hammer	)	(Stretcher strips are pre-cut pieces
finishing nails	)	OR of wood stripping with ends which can
4 feet of wood stripping	)	interlock to form a 90° angle with
(½" thick and 1½" wide)	)	another stretcher strip. They are
miter box and backsaw	)	available from art supply stores.)

Directions

1. If stretcher strips aren't used, use the miter box and backsaw to cut two pieces of wood stripping 10" long and two pieces 12" long with mitred corners. Nail the pieces together at the corners to form a 10" x 12" frame.
2. Sand the wood smooth.
3. Paint the outer edges and back with two coats of paint. Let the paint dry completely between coats.
4. Cement the mirror over the frame and let it dry.
5. Arrange seashells and pebbles around the edge of the mirror, fitting them, piling them and extending some over the edges cement the shells in place.
6. Let the cement dry thoroughly before hanging the mirror.
7. Supervise closely to prevent breakage.

Variation

This same technique produces excellent picture frames for a child's special marine-related painting or drawing.

*Have students do this as a class in conjunction with unit on grooming of the human body.

ROCKS AND PEBBLESPAINTED ROCKMaterials

large rock
tempera paints
spray shellac
white glue
paintbrushes
yarn, feathers, string, pipe cleaners, felt, macaroni

Directions

1. Wash a rock and let it dry.
 2. Choose a marine creature and paint it on the rock. Use one color at a time. Allow each color to dry thoroughly before using another.
 3. When the paint is dry, spray the rock creature with shellac and let it dry.
 4. To make hair, whiskers, antennae, feet, tails, ears, tongues, etc., use feathers, yarn, string, felt, pipe cleaners, small pebbles, etc.
- Be creative!

*Use to reinforce science unit on rocks and minerals; following a field trip to the shore; after reading a book on the rocky shore or volcanoes (or other earth science-type book).

STONE AND PEBBLE MOSAIC*

Materials

small pebbles, shells, and stones (colored aquarium gravel works well)
cardboard, board, or wood on which to mount work
adhesive (white glue diluted with a small amount of water)
paint (optional)

Directions

1. Cut the desired size of cardboard, board, or wood on which to mount the pebbles.
2. Sort the pebbles according to colors and textures.
3. Paint the panel if necessary.
4. Draw a design in broad shapes on the panel or work without a pre-drawn design.
5. Arrange the pebbles on the panel then fix them securely with white glue.

Variation

Modelling clay can be used in place of the glue to hold the parts of the mosaic in place.

*See "Rocks & Pebbles" activity.

PAPER WEIGHTS (Two Kinds)

Materials

smooth rocks
pressed grasses, or blossoms (press ahead of time)
decoupage medium, such as "craft barrel"
paint brush
periwinkle shells
dog whelks
elmer's glue
white shellac

Directions

1. Gather smooth rocks and press grasses or blossoms.
2. Apply two coats of decoupage medium to smooth rock.
3. While the second coat is still wet, place pressed plants into desired positions.
4. Apply three or four coats of medium over rock and plants.

-
1. Using Elmer's glue, glue several shells onto a rock.
 2. After the glue has dried, apply a coat of white shellac to the rock and shells.

PLASTER BED MOSAIC

Materials

small pebbles or stones
plaster of paris
shallow container in which to pour plaster (metal tray, cardboard box top)
awl
hammer
wire
pliers
pencil and paper

Directions

1. With the awl, pierce two small holes in the shallow container. These holes will be used in hanging the finished mosaic. Make one hole on either side of the center.
2. Pass a loop of wire through the holes and twist the ends together on the inside of the container. This will hold the work together and will serve as a means of hanging the mosaic.
3. Mark out the inside shape of the container on a sheet of paper. Arrange the pebbles into the desired design on the paper.
4. Mix "delayed-setting" plaster of paris.
 - a. Heat a little Scotch glue or size (available in hardware stores).
 - b. Mix the plaster of paris according to the package directions.
 - c. Add a spoonful of the heated glue or size to the plaster of paris.

A tablespoon of glue or size mixes well and will delay the setting of plaster for about an hour.
 - d. Stir the plaster and glue or size mixture from time to time with a spoon.
5. Pour the delayed-setting plaster of paris into the mold to just below the top of the container.
6. Transfer the pebbles arranged on the paper to the plaster.
7. Color the plaster if needed, wiping the color off the pebbles.

SHADOWBOX*Materials

cardboard box (such as a shoe box, hatbox, or larger boxes. Plan ahead;
send note home to parents.)

scissors

glue

tempera paint or colored chalk

hair spray (if chalk is used) This will keep chalk from smearing.

paintbrushes and jars (if tempera paint is used)

wire or string

assorted papers (metallic foil, tissue paper scraps, construction paper, etc.)

decorative materials (shells, dried grasses, cloth, ribbon, yarn, sand,
pebbles, etc.)

colored cellophane

Directions

1. Make a design for the background of the shadowbox (the inside bottom of the box) using tempera paint or chalk. If chalk is used, spray with hair spray as a fixative.
2. Make fish and other underwater animals and plants from wire, pipe cleaners, clay, cloth, paper scraps, etc. Use your imagination! Fish can be suspended with wire or string from the top of the scene. You can use the attached figures as patterns.
3. Sand, shells, pebbles, etc. can be glued to the bottom to complete the scene.
4. Attach blue or green colored cellophane over the face of the box to give the illusion of water. (You may wish to enlist the help of class-parents for this section.)

*Use an aquarium to stimulate interest and ideas; read from fiction and non-fiction books, then discuss and use this activity.

DRIFTWOOD, VEGETATION, AND BEACH GRASSDRIFTWOOD SCULPTURE*Materials

driftwood, in a variety of shapes
shells, pebbles, dried beach grass
glue

Directions

1. Find a piece of driftwood that resembles an animal.
2. Add decorative touches so that it resembles the animal even more.

Variations--Natural Driftwood Sculpture

Select an unusual piece of driftwood. Glue pebbles, shells, and beach grass to it in an artistically pleasing manner.

*Can be used with unit on Native Americans or careers in crafts.

PRESSED VEGETATION COLLAGE*

Materials

leaves, beach grass, seaside flowers, etc.
tissues
tweezers
toothpicks
white glue
heavy poster board
large book such as telephone directory, catalogue or dictionary

Directions

1. To prepare the vegetation for drying and pressing, place it between two pieces of newspaper. Make sure the vegetation is flat.
2. Place the newspaper and vegetation between two large books for about a month, or press in a plant press for 4-5 days. (Steps 1 & 2 should be accomplished by the teacher before beginning the project with the class.)
3. Carefully remove the pressed and dried vegetation from the book and arrange it in a design on the poster board.
4. Using tweezers, carefully pick up the vegetation. With a toothpick, dot a small amount of white glue on the pressed material. Place the pressed materials on the poster board.

Variations

1. Using a picture frame, glue the pressed material on the cardboard backing and cover with glass.
2. Pressed vegetation may be glued onto plain note paper.
3. Pressed vegetation may be glued onto flat pieces of driftwood or boards collected at the beach.
4. Arrange leaves, grasses, etc. on a piece of white, or colored, 12" x 18" drawing paper. Cover the paper and decorations with clear contact to make a place mat.

*Use with unit on plants. Use pressed plants to paste onto pictures children draw.

FISH PRINT (GYOTAKU)*Materials (You may wish parental helpers to participate)

tempera paint
newsprint (rice paper also works well)
newspaper
whole, fresh fish (preferably flounder)
colored construction paper

Directions

1. Cover desk top with newspaper.
2. With your fingers, smooth a thin layer of the thickened tempera on the fish.
3. Place newsprint on the paint-covered fish. Holding the paper securely in place with one hand, rub over the entire fish with the other hand. Lift the paper from the fish very carefully. (The fish can be washed clean and reused.)
4. Mount the print on colored construction paper.

Variations

1. Prints can also be done on fabric, such as old sheets, unbleached muslin, etc.
2. A fish skeleton can be used to make the print instead of the entire fish.

*Use this to reinforce basic fish identification; also use in a unit on Japan.

BALLOON FISH

Materials

balloons
scraps of colored tissue paper
white glue (liquid starch is a good substitute for glue and water)
water
crochet thread
glitter
metallic foil

Directions

1. Mix two parts glue to one part water.
2. Inflate the balloon leaving a long enough neck for the children to get a hold on.
3. Coat inflated balloon with glue and water mixture and cover the balloon with tissue paper scraps. Overlap the scraps so the entire balloon is covered.
4. Dip the crochet thread in the glue and water mixture until it is completely saturated.
5. Wrap the thread around the balloon, criss-crossing it many times for strength.
6. Sprinkle with glitter.
7. Cut a tail, eyes, and fins of metallic foil and glue to the balloon.

Variations

1. Decorate with sequins, stars, beads, etc.
2. Use actual fish scales to decorate.

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